



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

**HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BIO-SOLIDS STORAGE IMPROVEMENTS & FRONT END LOADER PURCHASE
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT ADDENDUM #16
SRF # WW05 16 45 02**

Date: March 21, 2011

Target Project Approval Date: March 22, 2011

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in the Hammond Sanitary District's Bio-solids Storage Improvements and Front End Loader Purchase, Addendum #16 to its Preliminary Engineering Report dated January 19, 2011 will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a preliminary decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

How were environmental issues considered?

The National Environmental Policy Act requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an EA or an EIS.

Why is additional environmental review not required?

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

How do I submit comments?

Comments can be submitted to:

Max Henschen, Senior Environmental Manager
SRF Programs
317-232-8623; mhensche at ifa.in.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Hammond Sanitary District
Bio-solids Storage Improvements & Front End Loader
Purchase
Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) Addendum #16
5143 Columbia Avenue
Hammond, IN. 46327-1794

SRF Project Number: WW05 16 45 02

Authorized Representative: Dr. Michael T. Unger, District Manager

II. PROJECT LOCATION

All construction activities will take place at the Hammond Sanitary District wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). See Figure 1.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to refurbish the bio-solids storage building and purchase a three-cubic yard front end loader. The project will include an 8,000 square foot extension of the bio-solids storage building, structural modifications to the building, extension of the solids conveyor and electrical and miscellaneous improvements.

There are no feasible alternatives to the proposed action. The "no-action" alternative was rejected, since the need for expansion of the bio-solids storage building and replacement of the existing front-end loader would not be addressed.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COST, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

The estimated project cost of the bio-solids building is \$1,200,000 and the front-end loader is \$150,000; total estimated project cost is \$1,350,000. The Hammond Sanitary District will use funds from its existing SRF Loan WW05 16 45 02 to fund this project. Monthly user rates will not have to be adjusted. As of this date, there remains an unspent balance of \$5,089,546 in SRF Loan WW05 16 45 02.

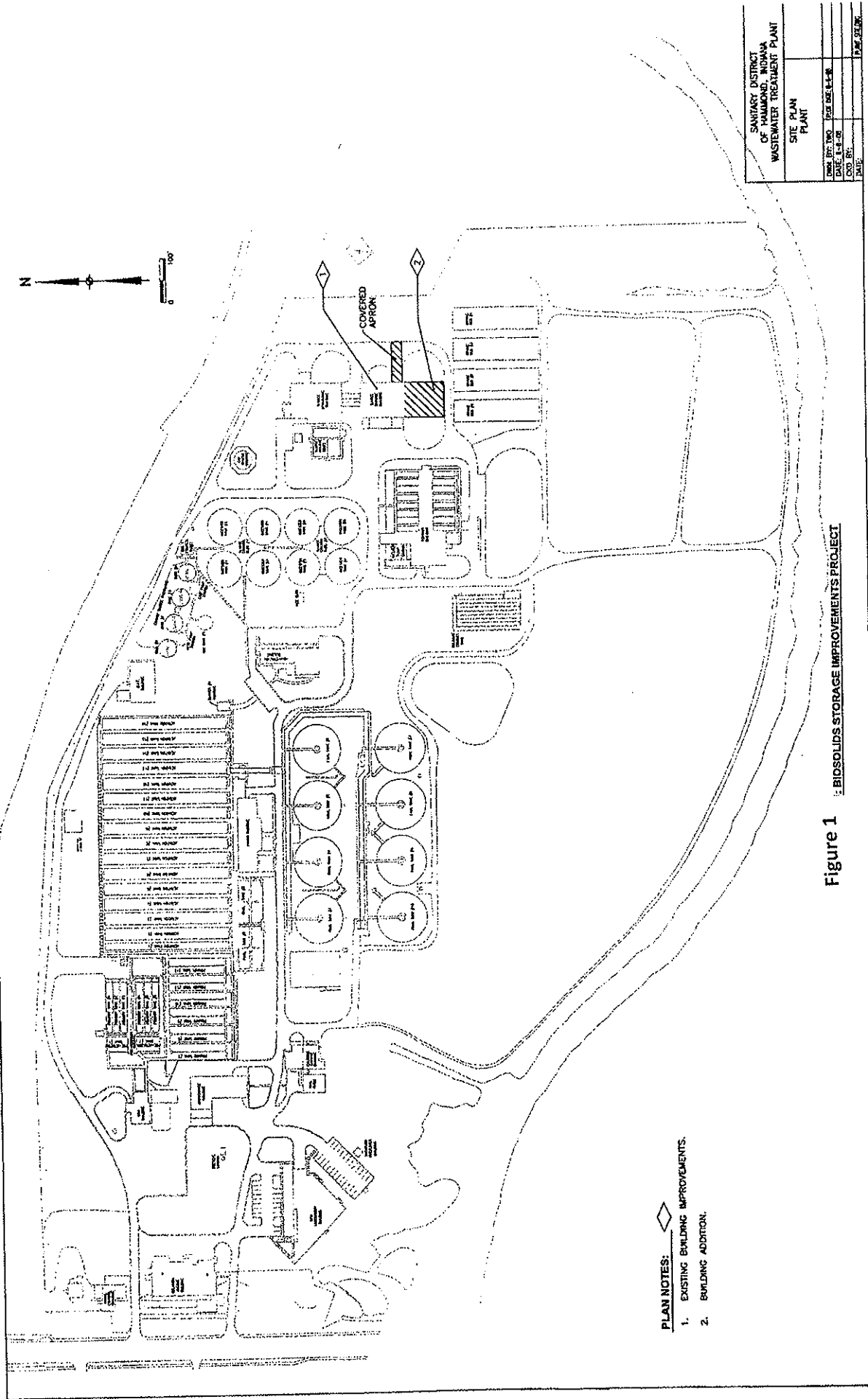
V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

Since the project will consist of a front end loader and expansion of the bio-solids building at the WWTP which is a site previously disturbed, there will be few negative environmental impacts.

Construction and operation of the project will not alter, demolish or remove historic properties; see figures 2 and 3. If any visual or audible impacts to historic properties occur, they will be temporary and will not alter the characteristics that qualify such properties for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The SRF's finding pursuant to Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The proposed project was discussed at a publicly noticed Board of Sanitary Commissioners meeting on December 14, 2010 at the Hammond Sanitary District Office. No written comments were received.



North Hammond Scattered Sites (40001-069)

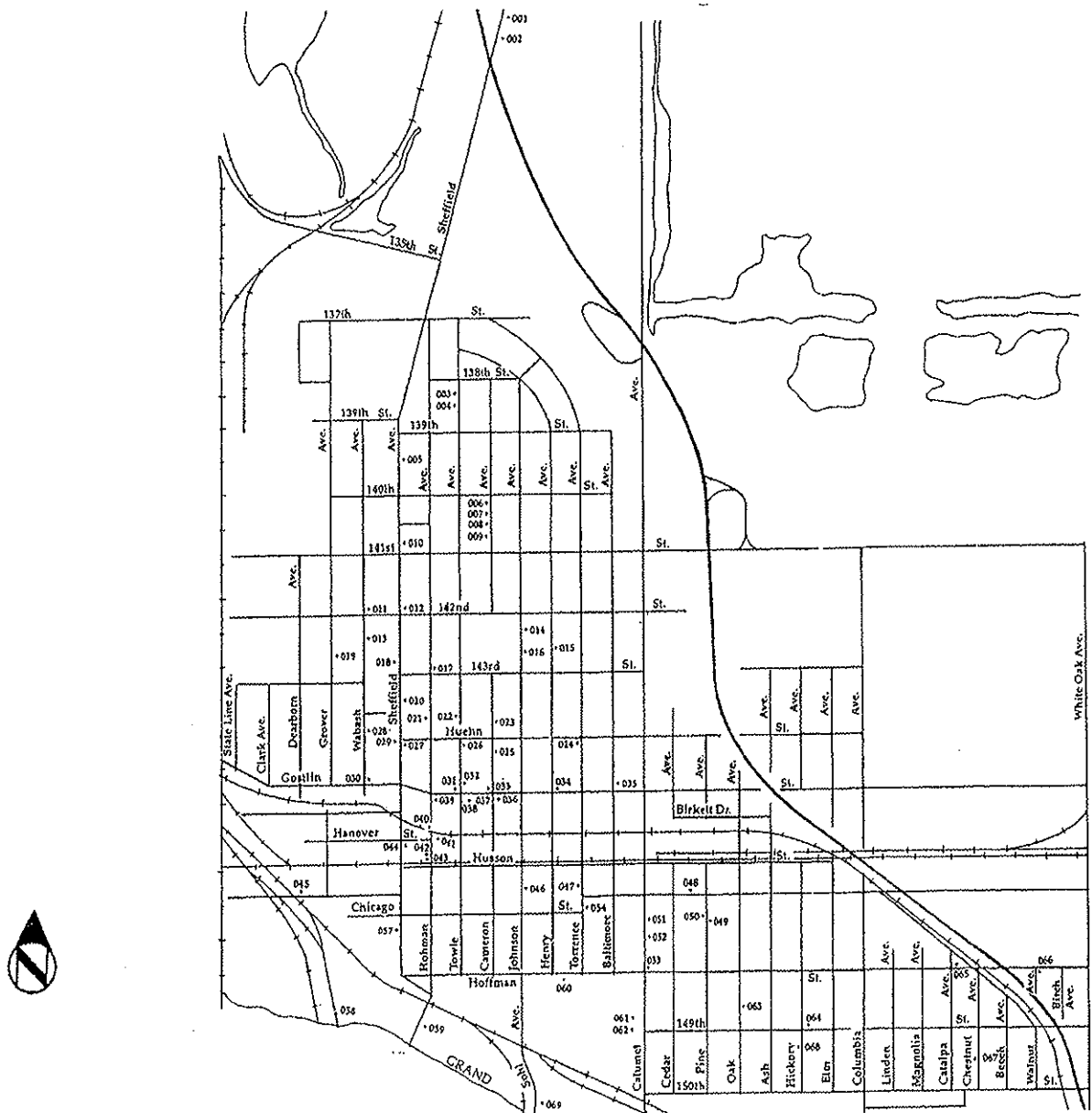


Figure 2: From Lake County Interim Report
Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

Biosolids
Storage Building →

Central Hammond Scattered Sites (46001-089)

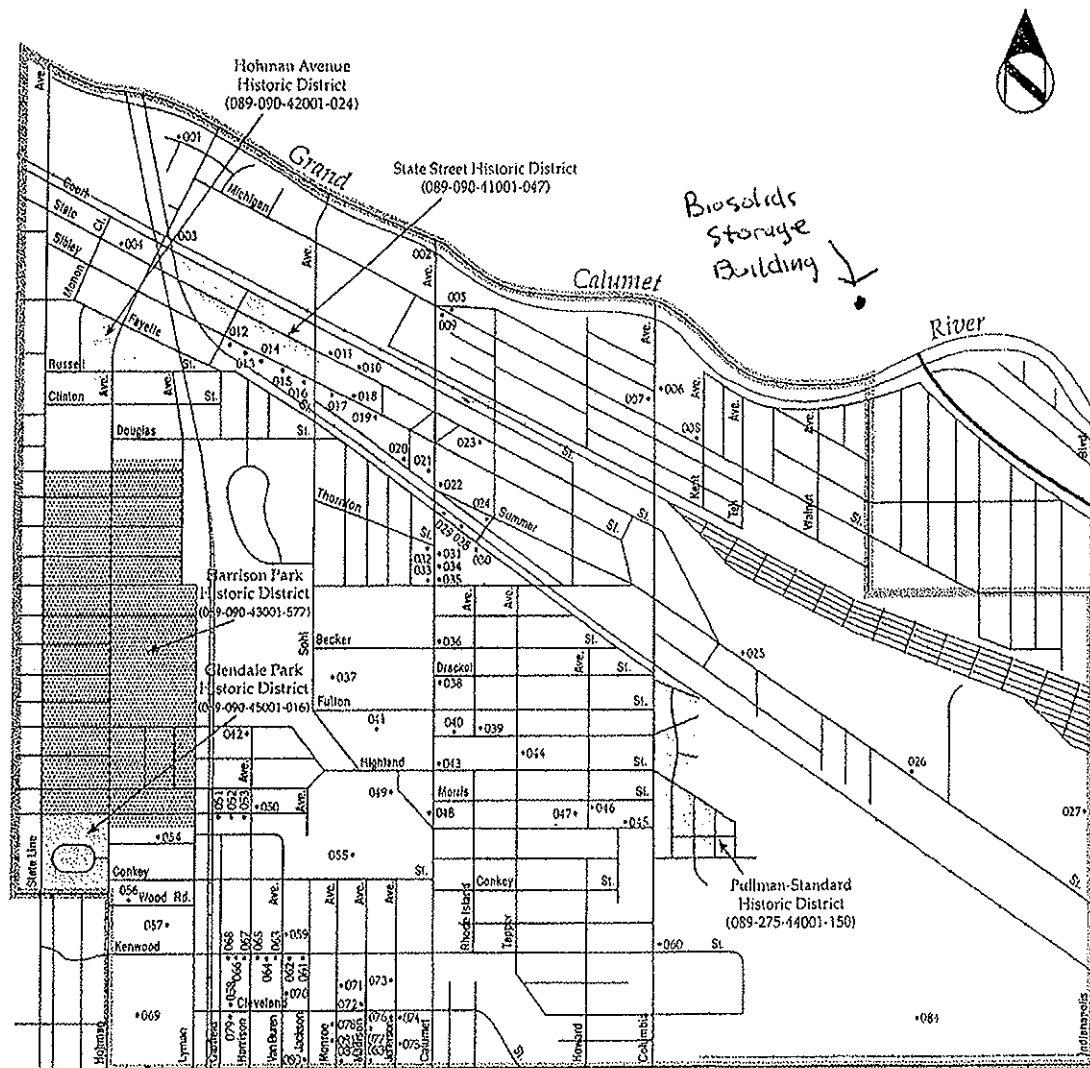


Figure 3: From Lake County Interim Report
Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory